

H. R. 737.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

JANUARY 25, 1849.

Read twice, and left upon the Speaker's table.

Mr. GRINNELL, from the Committee on Commerce, reported the following bill :

A BILL

To provide for recording the conveyances of vessels, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*
2 *sentatives of the United States of America in Congress*
3 *assembled,* That no bill of sale, mortgage, or other con-
4 veyance, of any vessel, or part of any vessel, of the United
5 States, shall be valid against any person other than the
6 grantor or mortgagor, his heirs, and devisees, and persons
7 having actual notice thereof; unless such bill of sale,
8 mortgage, or other conveyance, be recorded in the office
9 of the collector of the customs where such vessel is regis-
10 tered or enrolled: *Provided,* That the lien by bottomry
11 on any vessel created during her voyage, by a loan of

12 money or materials, necessary to repair or enable such
13 vessel to prosecute a voyage, shall not lose its priority or
14 be in any way affected by the provisions of this act.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the collec-
2 tors of the customs shall record all such bills of sale,
3 mortgages, or other conveyances, in a book to be kept
4 for that purpose, in the order of their reception, noting
5 in said book, and also on the bill of sale, mortgage, or
6 other conveyance, the time when the same was received;
7 and shall certify on the bill of sale, mortgage, or other
8 conveyance, the number of the book and page where re-
9 corded, and shall receive for so recording such instrument
10 of conveyance, fifty cents.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the col-
2 lectors of the customs shall keep an index of such records,
3 inserting alphabetically the names of the vendor or mort-
4 gageor and of the vendee or mortgagee, and shall permit
5 said index and books of records to be inspected during
6 office hours, under such reasonable regulations as they
6 may establish.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the col-
2 lectors of the customs shall furnish certified copies of such
3 records on the receipt of fifty cents for each bill of sale,
4 mortgage, or other conveyance.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the owner

2 or agent of the owner of any vessel of the United States,
3 applying to a collector of the customs for a register or en-
4 rolment of a vessel, shall, in addition to the oath now pre-
5 scribed by law, set forth, in the oath of ownership, the
6 part or proportion of such vessel belonging to each owner,
7 and the same shall be inserted in the register or enrol-
8 ment; and that all bills of sale of vessels registered or
9 enrolled shall set forth the part of the vessel owned by
10 each person selling, and the part conveyed to each person
11 purchasing.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That this act
2 shall take effect on and after the first day of July next.